

S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING

FUNDING

The Act established an advance recycling fee of 2 cents per quart for motor oil and similar lubricants sold at the wholesale level. The S.C. Department of Revenue collects these fees and deposits them in the Solid Waste Trust Fund that is administered by the Office.

A portion of these funds are given to local governments as grants. Local governments may use grant funds for one or more of the following programs or activities:

- to establish publicly operated collection centers for used motor oil, used motor oil filters and used motor oil bottles;
- to offer curbside collection of used motor oil, used motor oil filters and/or used motor oil bottles;
- to provide drain pans and other supplies that the public can use in an environmentally sound manner to store used oil prior to pickup or delivery to a used oil collection site;
- to educate the public about local recycling programs; and
- to attend recycling conferences, workshops or trainings for the professional development of local government personnel.

For more information about the grant program or setting up used motor oil collection programs, call the Office at **1-800-768-7348**.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR USED MOTOR OIL MANAGEMENT

The S.C. Solid Waste Policy and Management Act of 1991 (Act) bans used motor oil from municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill disposal. In addition, used motor oil filters are banned from disposal in MSW landfills unless “hot drained” – according to the state’s used oil regulation – or crushed to smallest practical volume.

The Act encourages local governments to establish used motor oil collection sites for do-it-yourself oil changers (DIYers). This technical assistance sheet is designed to assist local governments in setting up collection sites for used motor oil, motor oil filters and motor oil bottles that are generated by DIYers.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: COMPONENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE USED MOTOR OIL COLLECTION PROGRAM

- There are three types of tanks that may be placed at used motor oil collection sites. They are: 1) a standard used motor oil collection tank; 2) a farmer oil tank; and 3) an oil/gasoline mixture tank. Tanks should be placed inside of fenced, staffed (if possible) recycling centers. All tanks are required to be installed on a concrete pad with secondary containment and under a shelter (e.g., carport cover) of sufficient size to limit rainwater from entering the containment area. All tanks are required to be registered with the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). For more information, call **(803) 896-4207**.
- A comprehensive collection program also will offer residents the opportunity to recycle used motor oil filters and used motor oil bottles. DIYers should place the bottles in a designated collection container. Oil bottles will be drained by staff – not DIYers – using oil bottle drain racks provided by DHEC’s Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office). Oil bottle drain racks may be placed at the recycling centers under a shelter or at a designated consolidation point. Oil bottles must be drained for 6-8 hours. Drained bottles can be recycled along with other plastic bottles (HDPE).
- Oil filter collection containers also should be placed at recycling centers. Filters may be recycled using the state-term contract vendor or they may be crushed and sold with scrap metal.
- Bilingual signs (in English and Spanish) should be placed at all used motor oil collection sites to direct and instruct users of what can go in the tank and where to place filters and bottles.
- Spill kits should be used for daily maintenance of collection sites. Spill socks should be used to contain accidental spills. The Office typically provides two spill kits and two spill socks per used oil collection tank per year. They ARE NOT provided through the grant program.

TYPES OF USED MOTOR OIL COLLECTION TANKS

■ Standard Used Motor Oil Collection Tanks

- ☐ Tanks to collect used motor oil must have a primary containment system that is constructed of metal. The containers and tanks used to store used oil at collection centers must be equipped with a secondary containment system capable of retaining the contents of the largest tank or container.
- ☐ Tanks must be placed on a cement pad and under a shelter large enough for used motor oil filter and used motor oil bottle collection containers as well as drain racks to drain used oil bottles if drained at the center. (Other commodities – such as batteries and paint that need to be kept out of the weather – may be collected under the shelter as well.)
- ☐ Standard used motor oil collection tanks may be used to collect motor oil, heating oil, automatic transmission fluid, gear oil, diesel fuel, power steering fluid, fuel oil, kerosene and hydraulic fluid. (Antifreeze and brake fluid CANNOT be placed in any collection tank.)
- ☐ Place tanks at staffed sites with fencing if possible.
- ☐ If a staffed recycling center is not feasible to establish a used oil collection site, staff should be dedicated to checking and cleaning the site on a regular basis.

■ Farmer Oil Tanks

- ☐ Farmer oil tanks can be the only tank at a site.
- ☐ Farmer oil tanks must accommodate hand pouring by DIYers as well as pumping from a larger container (i.e., 55-gallon drums).
- ☐ Farmer oil tanks must have an automatic shut-off valve to prevent overfilling.
- ☐ Farmer oil tanks must have a fluid level gauge.
- ☐ Accessory equipment needed for farmer oil tanks includes an electrically operated pump, a compressor and a hose (typically 20 feet long) to pump out a 55-gallon drum without having to move the drum.
- ☐ Farmer oil tanks can be used to collect the petroleum products accepted in a standard used motor oil collection tank.
- ☐ Farmer oil tanks must be placed on a cement pad and under a shelter large enough for used motor oil filter and used motor oil bottle collection containers as well as drain racks to drain used oil bottles if drained at the center. (Other commodities – such as batteries and paint that need to be kept out of the weather – may be collected under the shelter as well.)
- ☐ Farmer oil tanks must be placed at staffed sites with fencing.

■ Oil/gasoline Mixture Tanks

- ☐ Oil/gasoline mixture tanks can be the only tank at a site.
- ☐ Oil/gasoline mixture tanks must be approved by your local Fire Marshal prior to starting collection.
- ☐ Oil/gasoline mixture tanks must meet the minimum state requirements including the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association Codes and Standards.
- ☐ Oil/gasoline mixture tanks must adhere to any additional local requirements and ordinances.
- ☐ Oil/gasoline mixture tanks may be used to collect oil/gasoline mixtures and gasoline as well as the petroleum products accepted in a standard used motor oil collection tank.
- ☐ Oil/gasoline mixture tanks must be placed on a cement pad and under a shelter large enough for oil filter and bottle collection containers as well as drain racks for used oil bottles collected at the center. (Other commodities – such as batteries and paint that need to be kept out of the weather – may be collected under the shelter as well.)
- ☐ Oil/gasoline mixture tanks must be placed at staffed sites with fencing.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: FILTER & BOTTLE COLLECTION

■ Used Motor Oil Filter Collection

- ☐ Collection containers should be 55-gallon drums (with covers) placed under a shelter.
- ☐ Filters may be collected and recycled by the state-term contract vendor.
- ☐ Filters may be drained, crushed and sold as scrap metal.

■ Used Motor Oil Bottle Collection

- ☐ Collection containers should be 55-gallon drums (with covers) placed under a shelter.
- ☐ Drain racks provided by the Office may be used to drain motor oil bottles for 6-8 hours.
- ☐ Properly drained bottles may be mixed and marketed with other plastic (HDPE).

MORE TO KNOW...

- Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) requirements apply if total capacity is 1,320 gallons or more of used motor oil at a collection site.
- Anyone who transports more than 55 gallons of used motor oil at one time must register with DHEC as a used oil hauler and obtain an identification number from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- All used motor oil collected from DIYers will be recycled or burned for energy recovery.



DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling Technical Assistance Sheets provide general information on environmental topics. The Office, however, is non-regulatory, and compliance questions should be addressed to DHEC's Division of Hazardous Waste Compliance and Enforcement at (803) 896-4136 or www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/HTML/sw_compliance_enforcement.htm. Readers are encouraged to reproduce this material. For more information about solid waste issues, please call 1-800-768-7348 or visit www.scdhec.gov/recycle. Please send written correspondence to DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.